

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05
MCT-01 AID-05 PC-01 IO-13 TRSE-00 AGRE-00 INT-05
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SUBJ: LABOR SITUATION

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1. THE PERUVIAN TRANSPORT WORKERS FEDERATION (FECHOP) HEADED BY JUAN P. LUNA HAS CALLED FOR A 24-HOUR MICROBUS STRIKE APRIL 20. (ALTHOUGH CALL NATIONWIDE, IMPACT WOULD BE LIMITED TO LIMA-CALLAO AREA.) FECHOP LEADERS ARE ASKING THE GOP TO INCREASE BUS FARES, TO ASSIST TRANSPORT WORKERS IN SECURITY SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS, AND TO FACILITATE THE IMPORTATION OF SPARE PARTS FOR THEIR MEMBERS' VEHICLES. THE APRA-RELATED FEDERATION OF TRANSPORT WORKERS HAS CONDEMNED THE STRIKE AS HAS THE NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF TRUCK AND BUS OWNERS. THE PERUVIAN MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION CLAIMS THAT THE COMMISSION, APPOINTED AFTER TRANSPORT WORKERS MET RECENTLY WITH GOP PRESIDENT MORALES-BERMUDEZ, IS RESPONDING TO THE WORKERS' CLAIMS AND THEREFORE A STRIKE IS UNNECESSARY AND POLITICALLY MOTIVATED. THE MINISTRY'S COMMUNIQUE THREATENS TO WITHDRAW THE CONCESSION OF ANY BUS LINE THAT TAKES PART IN THE PROPOSED STRIKE. LAST MINUTE
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NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE, BUT IF LUNA'S FEDERATION GOES AHEAD WITH THE STRIKE, IT IS PROBABLE THAT PASSENGER SERVICE IN LIMA AND CALLAO WILL BE SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED APRIL 20.

2. A SOUTHERN PERU COPPER CORPORATION (SPCC) OFFICIAL TOLD LABOR ATTACHE THAT THE STRIKE PROPOSED FOR APRIL 19 AT THE TOQUEPALA MINE HAS BEEN CALLED OFF AND OPERATIONS THERE ARE NORMAL (REFTEL).

FURTHERMORE, THE STRIKE AT THE SPCC ILO SMELTER WHICH HAD BEEN "SUSPENDED" HAS NOW ALSO BEEN CALLED OFF PERMANENTLY. SEVENTEEN FORMER SPCC WORKERS MAINTAIN THEIR HUNGER STRIKE IN AREQUIPA; BUT ONLY EIGHT OF THE ORIGINAL 18 HUNGER STRIKERS AT ILO ARE CONTINUING THEIR PROTEST.

3. THE FEDERATION OF MINE AND METAL WORKERS HEADED BY VICTOR CUADROS (WHO IS ALSO NUMBER ONE ON THE LIST OF CANDIDATES OF THE ULTRA LEFT UNIDAD DEMOCRATICO POPULAR, UDP) REPORTEDLY HAS INFORMED THE GOP OF ITS INTENT TO CALL A NATIONAL STRIKE IN THE MINING INDUSTRY APRIL 24-25. THE GOP ALREADY HAS ISSUED A DECLARATION THAT THIS STRIKE SHOULD NOT TAKE PLACE AND IT IS NOT RPT NOT YET CLEAR THAT A GENERAL MINING, METALWORKS STRIKE FINALLY WILL BE SUPPORTED. AN SPCC OFFICIAL NOTED THAT IN THE PAST THE MINE WORKERS FEDERATION HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN ATTEMPTS TO SHUT DOWN THE ENTIRE INDUSTRY, ALTHOUGH IT HAS CAUSED MANY PROBLEMS IN SPECIFIC MINES OR PLANTS. THE SAME OFFICIAL DOUBTS THAT SPCC MINES OR THE ILO SMELTER WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE PROPOSED 48-HOUR PROTEST.

3. IN THE PORT TOWN OF CHIMBOTE WHERE THE BOAT-BUILDING AND REPAIR COMPANY PICSA HAS BEEN TRYING TO FIRE 1150 WORKERS, ANOTHER ROUND OF PROTESTS HAS BEEN REPORTED. SHOPS STARTED CLOSING THERE MIDDAY APRIL 19 AND TRAFFIC HAS BEEN REDUCED SHARPLY. WORKERS FROM THE GOP IRON AND STEEL PLANT, SIDERPERU, ARE REPORTED TO BE JOINING THE PROTEST AGAINST THE MASS FIRING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AT PICSA.

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